

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00359 01 OF 02 310346Z

71

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 ERDA-05 AF-06 ARA-06 CIAE-00

DODE-00 EA-07 EUR-12 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NASA-01

NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01

OES-03 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 AS-01 /118 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5636

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY RRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 359

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UN

SUBJ: AD HOC COMMITTEE TO REVIEW UN DISARMAMENT ROLE

REF: USUN 301 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: AD HOC COMMITTEE CONCLUDED ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION
JANUARY 29 AFTER TAKING DECISIONS ON COMPOSITION OF BUREAU,
PROCEDURE FOR ADOPTING COMMITTEE REPORT'S FINDINGS AND
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PAGE 02 USUN N 00359 01 OF 02 310346Z

PROPOSALS, CONTENTS OF INVITATION TO UNSYG TO PROVIDE HIS

VIEWS TO COMMITTEE, PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF SECOND SESSION OF COMMITTEE IN JUNE, AND VENUE OF SECOND SESSION. WHILE PROCEDURAL FRAMEWORK FOR COMMITTEE'S WORK AS ESTABLISHED DURING WEEK-LONG ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION IS AS FAVORABLE AS WE COULD HAVE EXPECTED, TENTATIVE POSITIONS TAKEN BY SEVERAL DELEGATIONS ON UN DISARMAMENT ROLE INDICATE THAT SUBSTANTIVE COMMITTEE SESSION IN JUNE AND SEPTEMBER WILL BE USED BY SOME PARTICIPANTS TO PROMOTE FAR-REACHING CHANGES IN EXISTING INSTITUTIONS AND COULD WELL BECOME SCENE OF SHARP DISPUTES BETWEEN THOSE PRESSING FOR EXPANDED UN DISARMAMENT ROLE AND THOSE WISHING TO PRESERVE STATUS QUO.
END SUMMARY

2. IN ADDITION TO ELECTING SWEDISH STATE SECRETARY THORSSON AS CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE CHOSE VICE-CHAIRMAN FROM TUNISIA, IRAN, COSTA RICA, VENEZUELA, BELGIUM, HUNGARY, YUGOSLAVIA, AND PHILIPPINES, AND EGYPTIAN RAPPOREUR (ALFARARGI). MISSION CONSIDERS ALFARARGI TO BE A COMPETENT DIPLOMAT WHO HAS SERVED AS RAPPOREUR IN OTHER UN COMMITTEES AND HAS WORKED WELL WITH US ON RANGE OF ISSUES.

3. ONE OF THE FEW SUSPENSEFUL SITUATIONS OF ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION DEVELOPED DURING CONSIDERATION OF PROCEDURE FOR ADOPTING COMMITTEE DECISIONS. AFTER BEING ASSURED THAT TUNISIAN REP (WHO HAD EARLIER IN WEEK CALLED FOR POSTPONEMENT OF DECISION) WOULD NOT RAISE OBJECTIONS, THORSSON MADE SECOND ATTEMPT TO ADOPT UNDERSTANDING ON DECISION-MAKING REPORTED PARA FOUR REFTEL. BEFORE SHE COULD BANG GAVEL, HOWEVER, ROMANIA, SUPPORTED BY FRANCE, STATED PREFERENCE FOR USE OF TERM "CONSENSUS" RATHER THAN UNANIMITY CONCEPT. PERU OBJECTED THAT PROCEDURE PROPOSED BY CHAIR WOULD PERMIT SINGLE DEL TO BLOCK COMMITTEE DECISIONS. QUESTION WAS THEN PUT OFF UNTIL AFTERNOON SESSION. CONSULTATIONS AMONG INTERESTED DELS RESULTED IN FRENCH, ROMANIAN, AND EVENTUALLY RELUCTANT PERUVIAN ACCEPTANCE OF REVISED LANGUAGE SUGGESTED BY US DEL. AS ADOPTED BY COMMITTEE IN AFTERNOON MEETING, CHAIRMAN'S UNDERSTANDING ON DECISION-MAKING READS AS FOLLOWS: "IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT DELEGATIONS WISH TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ACHIEVE THE BROADEST AGREEMENT ON AS MANY OF THE ISSUES BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AS POSSIBLE, WITH THE
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PAGE 03 USUN N 00359 01 OF 02 310346Z

PROVISION THAT DELEGATIONS MAY HAVE THEIR OWN COMMENTS AND PROPOSALS RECORDED IN THE REPORT IN ADDITION TO THOSE FINDINGS AND PROPOSALS THAT ARE ADOPTED WITHOUT OBJECTION BY THE COMMITTEE."

4. REVISED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR SECOND SESSION WAS ADOPTED WHICH INCORPORATES US DRAFTING CHANGES AIMED AT ENSURING THAT AGENDA WILL NOT PREJUDGE ORGANIZATION OF WORK

OF SECOND SESSION AND WILL NOT PERMIT DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO BE CIRCULATED AS COMMITTEE DOCUMENTS. (ORIGINAL SWEDISH DRAFT AGENDA HAD PROVIDED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUPS, IMPLIED THAT THERE WOULD BE FOUR SUCH GROUPS, AND INDICATED THAT DOCUMENTS TRANSMITTED TO COMMITTEE BY UNSYG WOULD CONTAIN COMMUNICATIONS TO HIM OTHER THAN THOSE RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS.)

5. UNSYG WAS INVITED BY COMMITTEE TO PREPARE A REPORT IN WHICH HE WOULD PRESENT "IN A SYSTEMATIZED MANNER" COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS AND PROVIDE HIS VIEWS "AS HE DEEMS APPROPRIATE" ON UN DISARMAMENT ROLE. EARLY VERSION OF INVITATION HAD ASKED SYG TO "REVIEW AND ANALYZE" COMMUNICATIONS OF GOVERNMENTS AND HAD ENCOURAGED HIM TO SUBMIT DETAILED VIEWS AND PROPOSALS ON BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES. LANGUAGE OF INVITATION WAS TONED DOWN CONSIDERABLY AT URGING NOT ONLY OF SOVIET BLOC AND WESTERN DELS, BUT ALSO OF SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS WHO FELT WALDHEIM WAS INCLINED TO TAKE CAUTIOUS AND CIRCUMSCRIBED ATTITUDE TOWARD SECRETARIAT'S ROLE IN REVIEW. WE WOULD EXPECT VIEWS THAT SYG "DEEMS APPROPRIATE" TO PROVIDE WILL CONTAIN FACTUAL BACKGROUND ON CURRENT UN ROLE IN DISARMAMENT AS WELL AS NEUTRAL PRESENTATION OF OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR AUGMENTING SECRETARIAT'S INFORMATION FUNCTION.

6. DECISION WAS TAKEN TO HOLD SECOND SESSION IN NEW YORK. WHILE SEVERAL CCD MEMBERS HAD SLIGHT PREFERENCE FOR GENEVA, MANY PARTICIPANTS FELT GENEVA VENUE WOULD LEAD TO UNDER-REPRESENTATION OF NON-ALIGNED. CRITICAL FACTOR IN SELECTION WAS PROBABLY BELIEF THAT HOLDING MEETING IN NEW YORK WOULD PERMIT CONTACT TO BE MAINTAINED WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS KNOWLEDGEABLE IN DISARMAMENT. WHILE SECOND SESSION IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR TWO WEEKS BEGINNING JUNE 28, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 USUN N 00359 01 OF 02 310346Z

THORSSON INDICATED SHE WILL TRY TO RESCHEDULE EARLIER IN JUNE, PROBABLY JUNE 14, AND WILL NOTIFY GOVERNMENTS OF RESULTS.

7. MAJOR FACTOR IN OUTCOME OF ORGANIZATION SESSION, ESPECIALLY FAVORABLE DECISIONS ON DECISION-MAKING, PROCEDURE, AGENDA, AND INVITATION TO SYG, WAS NATURE OF NON-ALIGNED PARTICIPATION. WHILE MOST MEETINGS WERE REASONABLY WELL ATTENDED (OPENING MEETING ATTENDED BY 75 DELS), MANY NON-ALIGNED GOVERNMENTS THAT ARE INTERESTED IN QUESTION OF UN DISARMAMENT ROLE AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO PLAY LEADING ROLE IN SUBSTANTIVE SESSIONS (E.G. MEXICO, YUGOSLAVIA, NIGERIA), WERE REPRESENTED BY OFFICIALS WHO DO NOT NORMALLY HANDLE DISARMAMENT. RESULT WAS TO GIVE US AND SWEDISH DELS SUBSTANTIAL INFLUENCE IN DECISIONS OF ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION. SESSION WAS ATTENDED BY ALL

NUCLEAR POWERS EXCEPT CHINA. CHINESE MISSION OFFICER
TOLD US DELOFF THAT, WHILE PRC WOULD NOT TAKE PART IN
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS, CHINA WOULD CONSIDER PARTICIPATING
IN SUBSTANTIVE SESSIONS IF COMMITTEE APPEARED TO BE MOVING
IN CONSTRUCTIVE DIRECTION.

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00359 02 OF 02 310406Z

71

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 ERDA-05 AF-06 ARA-06 CIAE-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 359

8. ALTHOUGH SESSION WAS DEVOTED PRIMARILY
TO PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS, SEVERAL DELEGATIONS MADE KNOWN THEIR
TENTATIVE VIEWS ON THE UN ROLE IN DISARMAMENT, BOTH IN CORRIDORS
AND IN COMMITTEE STATEMENTS. VIEW WAS FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED

THAT MOST PROMISING AREA FOR COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER WILL BE
ROLE OF SECRETARIAT IN INFORMATION FIELD AND SECONDARILY
IN TREATY IMPLEMENTATION. SWEDES HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT THEY
HAVE AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR EXPANDING THE SECRETARIAT'S ROLE.
IN PREPARED STATEMENT, SWEDISH DEL SUGGESTED CREATING
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PAGE 02 USUN N 00359 02 OF 02 310406Z

FACILITIES IN SECRETARIAT FOR CONDUCTING IN-DEPT STUDIES OF
DISARMAMENT MATTERS AND SUPPORTED MAJOR EXPANSION OF SECRETARIAT
RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COLLECTING AND DISSEMINATING INFORMATION.
REGARDING SECRETARIAT ROLE IN TREATY IMPLEMENTATION, THEY
SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF UN SEISMOLOGICAL STATIONS FOR VERIFYING
A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN AND UN INSPECTION TEAMS, AS WELL
AS ROLE IN HARMONIZING VERIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS AMONG
DIFFERENT DISARMAMENT AGREEMENTS AND IN COMPILATION OF DATA
FOR USE OF TREATY PARTIES. FINALD, WHILE SINGLING OUT
SECRETARIAT'S ROLE AS ONLY PROMISING AREA OF COMMITTEE'S
WORK, TOOK MUCH MORE MODEST VIEW OF WHAT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED,
MENTIONING FUNCTION OF PROVIDING ASSISTANCE AT TREATY REVIEW
CONFERENCES.

9. SOVIETS WERE VERY NEGATIVE TOWARD ROLE OF
SECRETARIAT. PERMREP MALIK MADE STATEMENT (APPEARING IN
COMMITTEE BRIEFLY FOR THAT PURPOSE) THAT WAS PARTICULARLY
CRITICAL OF SWEDISH SUGGESTIONS REGARDING IN-DEPTH STUDIES
AND POSSIBLE ROLE IN VERIFYING COMPLIANCE WITH TREATIES.
MORE GENERALLY, MALIK SAID CHIEF OBSTACLES TO PROGRESS IN
DISARMAMENT WERE NOT ORGANIZATIONAL BUT LACK OF SUFFICIENT
POLITICAL WILL BY CERTAIN NUCLEAR POWERS, AND MOST CONSTRUCTIVE
RESULT OF COMMITTEE WOULD BE DECISION TO CONVENE WORLD DIS-
ARMAMENT CONFERENCE.

10. THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE CHANGES IN EXISTING
DISARMAMENT FORUMS. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING SWEDEN,
FINLAND, AND AUSTRIA, EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH THE WAY
DISARMAMENT IS HANDLED IN UNGA'S FIRST COMMITTEE, PARTICULARLY
ADOPTION EACH YEAR OF INCREASING NUMBER OF RESOLUTIONS,
MANY OF WHICH HAVE NO PRACTICAL EFFECT. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS
CALLED FOR CONSIDERATION OF WAYS TO IMPROVE FIRST COMMITTEE
OPERATION. HOWEVER, ASIDE FROM REFERENCES TO REDUCING
NUMBERS OF RESOLUTIONS AND MAKING DEBATE MORE ORDERLY BY
DEALING WITH ONE AGENDA ITEM AT A TIME, THERE WERE NO
CONCRETE PROPOSALS.

11. QUESTION OF HOW AD HOC COMMITTEE SHOULD DEAL WITH CCD
RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION. SEVERAL WESTERN DELS,
FINNS, AND SOVIETS TOOK THE VIEW THAT CCD ITSELF, AND NOT
AD HOC COMMITTEE, SHOULD REVIEW CCD PROCEDURES. ROMANIANS,
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PAGE 03 USUN N 00359 02 OF 02 310406Z

ON OTHER HAND, MAINTAINED THAT PARTICULAR ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE ROLE AND OPERATION OF CCD AND THAT ITS PROCEDURES WERE IN NEED OF RADICAL REFORM. SWEDES, AUSTRALIANS, AND SOME OTHERS BELIEVED THAT, WHILE CCD SHOULD REVIEW AND TAKE DECISIONS ON ITS OWN PROCEDURES, AD HOC COMMITTEE SHOULD GIVE ADVICE ON QUESTIONS BEARING ON UNGA-CCD RELATIONSHIP, SUCH AS FORMAT OF ANNUAL CCD REPORT TO UNGA. THIS VIEW IS REFLECTED IN SWEDISH WORKING PAPER CONTAINING SUGGESTED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR GOVERNMENTS' COMMUNICATIONS TO UNSYG. ITEM ON CCD READS AS FOLLOWS: "RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNGA AND THE CCD IS FIELD OF DISARMAMENT, IN PARTICULAR REVIEW OF APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENTRUSTING TASKS BY THE UNGA TO THE CCD AND FOR THE FORMAT OF REPORTS BY THE CCD TO THE UNGA, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE DISCUSSION ON CCD PROCEDURES TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE CCD AT ITS SPRING SESSION." AS REPORTED REFTEL, SWEDISH INTENTION OF HAVING WORKING PAPER WITH SUGGESTED TERMS OF REFERENCE ENDORSED BY COMMITTEE WAS BLOCKED BY SEVERAL DELEGATIONS. WORKING PAPER WILL SIMPLY BE TRANSMITTED WITH OTHER COMMITTEE DOCUMENTATION TO GOVERNMENTS FOR THEIR INFORMATION.

12. HOLDING THAT CONSIDERATION OF DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS AT REGULAR UNGA SESSIONS WAS INADEQUATE, AND THAT UN DISARMAMENT ROLE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN BROADER CONTEXT OF SUBSTANTIVE DISARMAMENT OBJECTIVES, ROMANIA MADE STRONG APPEAL FOR SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT.

13. FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING, WHICH REFLECTED CURRENT FRENCH ATTITUDES TOWARD CCD, IS REPORTED SEPTTEL.
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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
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